

MERIT SYSTEM SERVICES

SAMPLE SOCIAL WORKER I

Section	Description	Questions
1	ANALYTICAL ABILITY	25
2	INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP BEHAVIOR PRINCIPLES	25
3	INTERVIEWING PRINCIPLES	30
4	WRITTEN COMMUNICATION	20
		Total 100

TIME ALLOWANCE: 2 HOURS

NOTE

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(NOTE: THE ABOVE INFORMATION DESCRIBES THE ACTUAL EXAM. FOR PURPOSES OF BREVITY, THIS SAMPLE CONTAINS FEWER ITEMS IN EACH SECTION.)

SECTION 1

ANALYTICAL ABILITY

DIRECTIONS: The following questions are designed to measure your ability to read and understand written material. Each reading passage is followed by one or more questions about the material you have read. Base your answers only on the material you have read and not on any prior knowledge you may have.

On a fundamental level, it is important to understand that *The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM) is a manual developed to provide guidelines for the diagnosis and classification of mental disorders. The DSM has added new categories since its first publication in 1917. In 1980, the DSM III recommended assessments of mental disorders according to five dimensions, which intended to provide a picture of an individual's mental health. These different dimensions, or axes, help to analyze and address some of the complexities behind many mental disorders. The five axes consider different factors in relation to formulating a comprehensive assessment. The most recent edition, the DSM IV, considers mental disorder classifications and descriptions based upon new research and discoveries within the field. For example, homosexuality, which was originally noted in the DSM III, is no longer considered a mental disorder due to an astounding volume of literature which validated its deletion from the DSM III.

1. According to the above paragraph, what major contribution was included in the DSM III since the manual's first edition?
 - a. Axes
 - b. Deletions
 - c. Additions
 - d. Complexities
2. According to the above paragraph, why did the DSM IV have some content changes in comparison to the third edition?
 - a. New research necessitated some change.
 - b. The DSM III proved completely useless.
 - c. The descriptions were inadequate and vague.
 - d. Complaints from psychologists and other researchers.

DIRECTIONS: Answer the following questions based on the memorandum below. Darken the box corresponding to the single best answer for each of the questions.

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 15, 1999

TO: All Health and Social Service Employees

From: Sue Smith/Joanne Wilson

Subject: Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

In reference to the attached document, the FMLA applies to both private and public sector employees. This memo addresses some of the questions and concerns that have been brought to our attention over the past three months. As noted in the attachment, the Family and Medical Leave Act is intended to provide a means for employees to balance their work and family responsibilities by taking unpaid leave for certain reasons.

In a nutshell, the FMLA provides an entitlement of up to 12 weeks of job-protected, unpaid leave during any 12 months for the following reasons:

- Birth and care of the employee's child or placement for adoption or foster care of a child with the employee;
- To care for an immediate family member (spouse, child, parent) who has a serious health condition; or
- For the employee's serious health condition.

Please note that an employer must maintain the group health benefits that an employee was receiving at the time leave began, in accordance with FMLA.

As an employee, it is crucial that you notify the employer 30 days prior to a foreseeable leave. If the leave is not foreseeable, notice must be given as soon as practicable.

Although this memo is intended to answer some of the questions that have been raised over the past few months, there may be other questions that can be answered by reading the attached information.

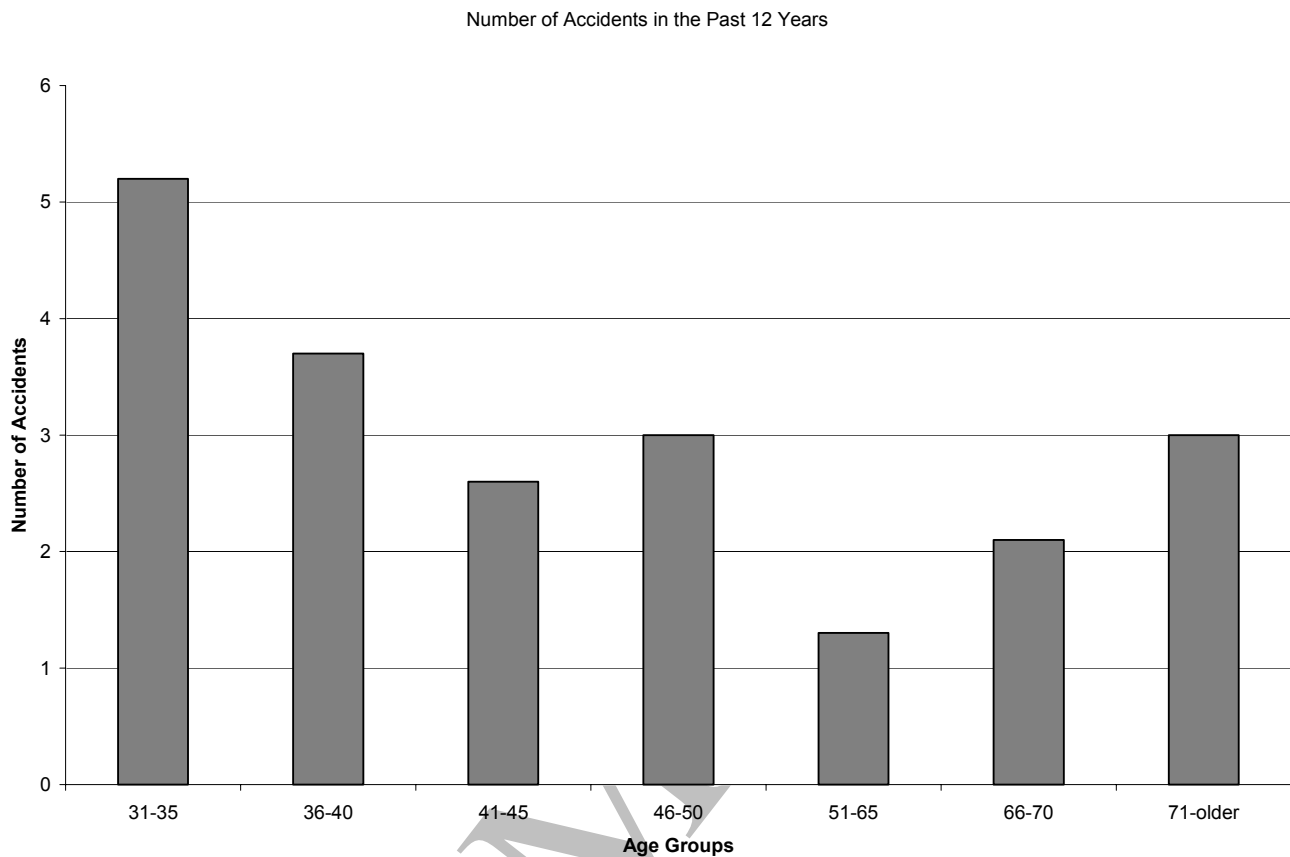
Please contact Human Resources if you have any further questions.

SS & JW

Enclosure

3. According to the memo, who is covered under FMLA?
- a. only public sector employees
 - b. only private sector employees
 - c. public and private sector employees
 - d. certain classifications within each sector
4. What is the main purpose of the memo?
- a. To address employees' concerns and questions about FMLA.
 - b. To notify employees of all their rights under FMLA and other acts.
 - c. To provide employees with bits and pieces of information about FMLA.
 - d. To ease some tension and stress among employees needing to take some time off.

DIRECTIONS: Answer the following questions based on the graph below. Darken the box corresponding to the single best answer for each of the questions.



5. According to the above graph, which age group had the highest number of accidents?
- a. 31-35
 - b. 36-40
 - c. 51-65
 - d. 71-older
6. According to the above graph, the 51-65 year age group had approximately how many accidents during the past 12 years?
- a. 1
 - b. 2
 - c. 3
 - d. 4

SECTION 2

INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP BEHAVIOR PRINCIPLES

DIRECTIONS: Darken the box corresponding to the single best answer for each of the following questions.

7. A phobia may be defined as a
- a. loss of memory similar to amnesia.
 - b. strong feeling of nervousness or distress.
 - c. compelling feeling to carry out undesirable or inappropriate acts.
 - d. fear of a specific experience or object that in reality presents no harm to the individual.
8. Asperger's Syndrome is defined as
- a. schizophrenia.
 - b. manic depression.
 - c. an attachment disorder.
 - d. high functioning autism.
9. According to the Social Learning Theory, children acquire
- a. negative attitudes toward various social groups because they were rewarded for viewing the social groups in this manner.
 - b. negative attitudes toward various social groups because they hear such attitudes expressed by parents, teachers, and peers.
 - c. negative attitudes toward various social groups because they were predisposed to view these particular social groups as bad.
 - d. positive attitudes toward various social groups because they hear negative attitudes about the social groups from parents, teachers, and peers.

SECTION 3

INTERVIEWING PRINCIPLES

DIRECTIONS: Darken the box corresponding to the single best answer for each of the following questions.

10. When conducting an interview with a new client, establishing rapport
- a. should be of primary concern.
 - b. is rarely important, depending on the client.
 - c. is only secondary. Getting the case history is primary.
 - d. can be very difficult and should be avoided at all costs.
11. The type of environment that allows for the most effective communication during an interview is one
- a. where there is a lot of human traffic.
 - b. where the client and interviewer can see each other.
 - c. that has no human traffic yet allows for interruptions (i.e. phone, pagers).
 - d. that is comfortable and allows for the client and interviewer to see and speak to one another without interruption.

SECTION 4

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

DIRECTIONS: The following items are designed to measure your *ability to identify words which are spelled incorrectly*. For each item, choose the one word which is misspelled.

12. Which word pertaining to a mental disorder is misspelled?

- a. bipolar
- b. schizophrennia
- c. personality disorder
- d. obsessive compulsive disorder

13. Which word pertaining to a type of therapy is misspelled?

- a. play
- b. cognitive
- c. behavioral
- d. psychoanalysis

DIRECTIONS: The following questions are designed to measure your vocabulary knowledge. For each capitalized word, select the one word below it which best describes the meaning of that word.

14. COMPILATION

- a. file
- b. dump
- c. collect
- d. organize

15. IMPEDE

- a. create
- b. operate
- c. obstruct
- d. converge

SAMPLE

DIRECTIONS: Listed below are numbered sentences. Each sentence has four parts underlined and marked with the letter a, b, c, or d. One of the four underlined sections contains an error in grammar, punctuation, spelling, or word usage. You are to study each sentence, decide where the mistake is, and then mark that letter on your answer sheet. Each sentence contains only one error and the error is always underlined. The parts of each sentence that are not underlined are always correct. Following the numbered sentences is a question which asks you to decide the proper, logical order in which to arrange these sentences if you were going to make a paragraph from them.

16. (1) When the client first arrived, it is important that I introduce myself.
a b c d
17. (2) As the woman entered my office, it was obvious that their were some
a b c
issues to discuss.
d
18. (3) During the interview, it was noted that the client loved to eat peanut
butter, and jelly sandwiches, chips, and juice.
a b c d
19. What is the most logical order in which to arrange sentences numbered (1), (2), and (3) in a paragraph?
- a. (1), (3), (2)
 - b. (1), (2), (3)
 - c. (2), (3), (1)
 - d. (3), (2), (1)